

T-252

c. 1825-1850

St. Mary's Square Museum

St. Michaels

private

This story-and-a-half frame house was evidently built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century from salvaged timbers from the old Harrison steam mill formerly sited close to the St. Michaels harbor. The large, over-sized timbers reused in the construction of this small house tend to support this tradition. The story-and-a-half, one-room plan house type was popularly employed from the earliest period through the mid nineteenth century. A winder stair is a common feature for these modest sized houses. Connected by a short hyphen is the Teetotal Building, which dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Once used as a library, the structure has also been a magistrate's office and a harness shop. The pyramidal roofed structure, the only one of its kind still standing in St. Michaels, formerly stood on Willow Street.

Moved to St. Mary's Square in 1964, the modest story-and-a-half frame house was evidently the home of Jeremiah Sewell through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Thomas H. Sewall, Jeremiah's son, left in a personal journal, notes concerning Samuel Harrison's steam mill. As quoted in a 1976 newspaper article written by Irma S. Harper, "the mill erected in 1819 was not remunerative and after some years it was divided and taken down, Mr. Edward Willey using part as a mould loft for his shipyard and Mr. Jeremiah Sewall, father of the writer, moved part and converted it into a part of his dwelling house."

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-252

Magi No. 2102525303

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common St. Mary's Square Museum

## 2. Location

street & number St. Mary's Square ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of St. Mary's Square Museum

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot Clerk of Court liber

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-252

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move 1963
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### St. Mary's Square Museum description

The St. Mary's Square Museum stands on the southeast corner of the town square fronting East Chestnut Street and St. Mary's Square. The main museum building faces west with the main gable running on a north/south axis. Attached to the back of the main building is a single-story hyphen that connects a pyramidal roofed structure moved in 1969 and used as exhibition space.

Dating to the mid nineteenth century and evidently built of reused timbers from the old Harrison steam mill, the story-and-a-half two-part frame house was moved to this site from Mill Street in 1964. Supported by a modern brick foundation the beaded weatherboard frame house is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof.

The west (main) facade of the two-part house is five bays across. The principal house consists of two bays, while the gable end addition is three bays across. The main block has a four-panel door and an adjacent six over six sash window. The base of the roof is finished with a simple boxed cornice. Centered on the roofslope is a six over six sash gabled dormer.

Attached to the south gable end of the one-room house is a slightly shorter single-story one-room wing marked by three openings on the west (main) facade. The center four-panel door is flanked by six over six sash windows. The gable end section covers an exterior brick chimney that serves the main house. Like the main block the eave is finished with a boxed cornice and the roof is marked by a four over four sash dormer.

The north gable end of the main house has a single six over six sash window on each floor and a flush gable end. The east side of the main house is largely covered by a hyphen that stretches between the main building and the Teetotal building, moved in 1969. A gabled dormer marks each roof slope.

The interior of the house has had the timber framing exposed which reveals reciprocal sawn timbers and early nineteenth-century double-struck nails. A winder stair rises in the northeast corner and is enclosed by a board and batten door. The interior of the south end addition is similarly finished with an enclosed winder stair in the northeast corner.

The Teetotal Building, built c. 1860-1870, is a pyramidal roofed frame structure sheathed with German siding. A steeply pitched wood shingle roof is topped by a wooden finial. The south side of the building is four bays across with two central doors and adjacent six over six sash windows. The partially glazed front doors are topped by single-pane transoms.

The interior of the Teetotal Building is simply finished without any unusual details.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-252

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This story-and-a-half frame house was evidently built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century from salvaged timbers from the old Harrison steam mill formerly sited close to the St. Michaels harbor. The large, over-sized timbers for a small house tend to substantiate this tradition. The story-and-a-half, one-room plan house type was popularly used from the earliest period through the mid nineteenth century. A winder stair is a common feature for these modest sized houses due to the space saved, in contrast to open, more elaborate stair cases. The Teetotal Building dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and it was used for a variety of purposes. Once used as a library, the structure has also been a magistrate's office and a harness shop. The pyramidal roofed structure, the only one of its kind and still standing in St. Michaels, formerly stood on Willow Street

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Moved to St. Mary's Square in 1964, the modest story-and-a-half frame house was the home of Jeremiah Sewell through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Thomas H. Sewell, Jeremiah's son, left in a personal journal, notes concerning Samuel Harrison's steam mill. As quoted in a 1976 newspaper article written by Irma S. Harper, "the mill erected in 1819 was not remunerative and after some years it was divided and taken down, Mr. Edward Willey using part as a mould loft for his shipyard and Mr. Jeremiah Sewell, father of the writer, moved part and converted it into a part of his dwelling house."



ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM

Year: 1971 Vol: 457 Page: 516

From: Shannahan Artesian Well Company, Inc. Price: \$5

To : Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Inc.

Notes: See attached deed ~~and plat~~. Deed covers the transfer of a total of 264' on Mill Street of which the subject property is 44 feet.

Conveyed by Sarah Thomas Bowens and William J Bowens to Shannahan Artesian Well Company, 1944, 393/700. (Deed gives date of 1964, but this is not correct.)

Year: 1944 Vol: 393 Page: 700

From: Sarah Thomas Bowens & William J Bowens Price: \$5

To : Shannahan Artesian Well Co.

Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to Sarah Thomas by Ruth R Startt, single, 1948, 277/225

Year: 1948 Vol: 277 Page: 225

From: Ruth R Startt Price: \$5

To : Sarah Thomas

Notes: Title Clearance.

The description, which is followed in all deeds: Begins at at stone on SE corner of lot of former Samuel T Harrison (now Paige Pinckett), 167' back to former John N Hambleton; 44' to former Josiah Fairbank; 167' to Mill (or Willow) Street; 44' to beginning.

Conveyed to Ruth R Startt by Sarah Thomas, 1948, 277/223.

Year: 1948 Vol: 277 Page: 223

From: Sarah Thomas, Ella Thomas Kellum & Wm R Kellum Price: \$5

To : Ruth R Startt

Notes: Title Clearance.

Conveyed to Wm J Thomas, Jr and Lillie V Thomas his wife by Earl A Leonard and Edna H Leonard, 1930, 221/433. Lillie V Thomas died and Wm J Thomas was sole heir. On death of Wm J Thomas, the property went to his children, Sarah Thomas and Ella Thomas Kellum.

Year: 1930 Vol: 221 Page: 433

From: Earl A Leonard & wife Price: \$850

To : William J Thomas, Jr & Lillie V.

Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to Earl A Leonard by Charles J Butler trustee, 1929, 216/474.

1930, 221/434, Wm J Thomas to Charles H Leonard is a mortgage for \$550.

Year: 1929 Vol: 216 Page: 474

From: Charles J Butler, trustee Price: \$475

To : Earl A Leonard & Edna H

Notes: Lot was sold by decree of Circuit Court, 9 Oct 1928, Curtis B Sewell vs Emma M Sewell, widow on 3 Nov 1928. Description same.

Conveyed to Jeremiah Sewell by Jeremiah Harrison, 1865, 72/241.

The sale was the result of a suit in Orphan's Court (No. 6173), Curtis B. Sewell vs Emma M Sewell which forced the sale of the property. The lot had remained under "heirs of Jeremiah Sewell" since his death in . Emma M Sewell was the widow of Walter M Sewell. Walter M Sewell was the son of Thomas H Sewell (author of the Methodist history). Thomas' father was Jeremiah Sewell, original purchaser of the lot.

Year: 1865 Vol: 72 Page: 241

From: Jeremiah Harrison & Sarah A. Price: \$75

To : Jeremiah Sewell

Notes: First sale of this in fee simple. The description follows that in all previous transactions involving this property. It is part of "Stopper" and was devised to Jeremiah by his mother, Mary Harrison who got it from her husband Joseph Harrison to whom it was left by his father, Thomas Harrison.

See the article by Irma Harper on the St. Mary's Square Museum building. I have checked the paragraph quoted by Harper from Thomas Sewell's "History of Methodism" and it is accurate.

Samuel Harrison acquired the land on which the mill was built in 1802 (29/354); he erected the mill before 1818 (see 40/593). Sam died in 1837 but the mill was not sold to Edward Willey until 1847 (60/406). The mill (which was apparently a "turkey") must have been idle for ten years or perhaps the saw-mill was rented-out by the administrator. If Sewell erected his house the same year he bought his lot, there is an interval of 18 years between Willey's purchase of the mill and the division of the mill building between the shipyard and Sewell. There is a possibility that the mould-loft portion of the building was incorporated into the Kepner House which is located on the site of the mill.



T-252

LIBER 457 PAGE 516



State of Maryland, Talbot County, To-wit:

Received November 17, 1971 at 11:40 o'clock A.M.  
Receipt No. 144289 John T. Baynard Clerk

THIS DEED, made this 17 day of October, 1971 by SHANNAHAN ARTESIAN WELL COMPANY, INC., a body corporate of the State of Maryland.

WITNESSETH, that in consideration of the sum of Five (\$5.00) Dollars and other good and valuable considerations, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said SHANNAHAN ARTESIAN WELL COMPANY, INC., a body corporate of the State of Maryland does hereby grant and convey unto CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM, INC., a body corporate of the State of Maryland, its successors and assigns, in fee simple, all that lot or parcel of ground situate, lying and being in the Town of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland and more particularly described in a Certificate of Survey made by D. C. Kirby, Registered Land Surveyor, as follows:

BEGINNING for the same at an Iron Rod on the North side of Mill Street or Maritime Museum Road, said Rod being at the Southwest corner of the herein described land and the Southeast corner of the land of Paige Pinkett (Liber 344, folio 329), and from said Place of Beginning running (1) by and with the said Pinkett land, North 13 degrees 08 minutes West 167.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence by and with land of undetermined ownership, the following six courses and distances: (2) North 76 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds East 44.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence (3) South 13 degrees 08 minutes East 47.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence (4) North 76 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds East 60.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence (5) South 13 degrees 08 minutes East 60.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence (6) North 76 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds East 160.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence (7) South 13 degrees 08 minutes East 60.00 feet to an Iron Rod and the aforementioned Mill Street; thence (8) by and with the Northerly side of said street, South 76 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds West 264.00 feet to the Place of Beginning, containing 24,146 Square Feet of Land, more or less.

BEING the same land described in the following two deeds: (1) Deed from Sarah Thomas Bowens and William J. Bowens to Shannahan Artesian Well Company, Inc. dated April 30, 1964 and recorded in the Land Record Books of Talbot County, Maryland under Liber 393, folio 700; and (2) Deed from Norman H. Shannahan, Jr., Trustee to Shannahan Artesian Well Company, Inc. dated October 30, 1956 and recorded in the Land Record Books of Talbot County, Maryland under Liber 335, folio 223.

AND the grantor does hereby grant, convey, assign and quit claim unto the grantee, its successors and assigns, all of its right, title and interest in property adjacent to that above described the possession of which has, by the grantor, or its predecessor, been actual, open, notorious, exclusive, hostile and continuous under a claim of title or ownership for more than twenty years last past, said property being described as being bounded on the North and East by a ditch, on the South by the property above described and on the West by the reversal and extension of the course described as (3) in the above certificate of survey, in a Northerly direction to the ditch.

The properties above described are designated on a plat made by J. R. McCrone, Jr., Inc. entitled "Land of Shannahan Artesian Well Company, Inc." and now of record among the Plat Records of Talbot County.

MILLER, WHEELER, THOMPSON & THOMPSON, EASTON, MARYLAND

TAX \$ 200.00 REC. # 144289 NOV 17 1971  
STATE PROPERTY TRANSFER CLERK

Shannahan 1 and delivered to Charles E. Whitehead 1-28-72



DR. DODSON'S  
↓

252

ST. MARY'S  
SQUARE

METHODIST  
CEMETERY

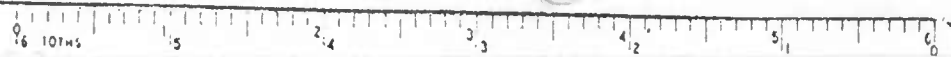
BALTIMORE

CHESAPEAKE

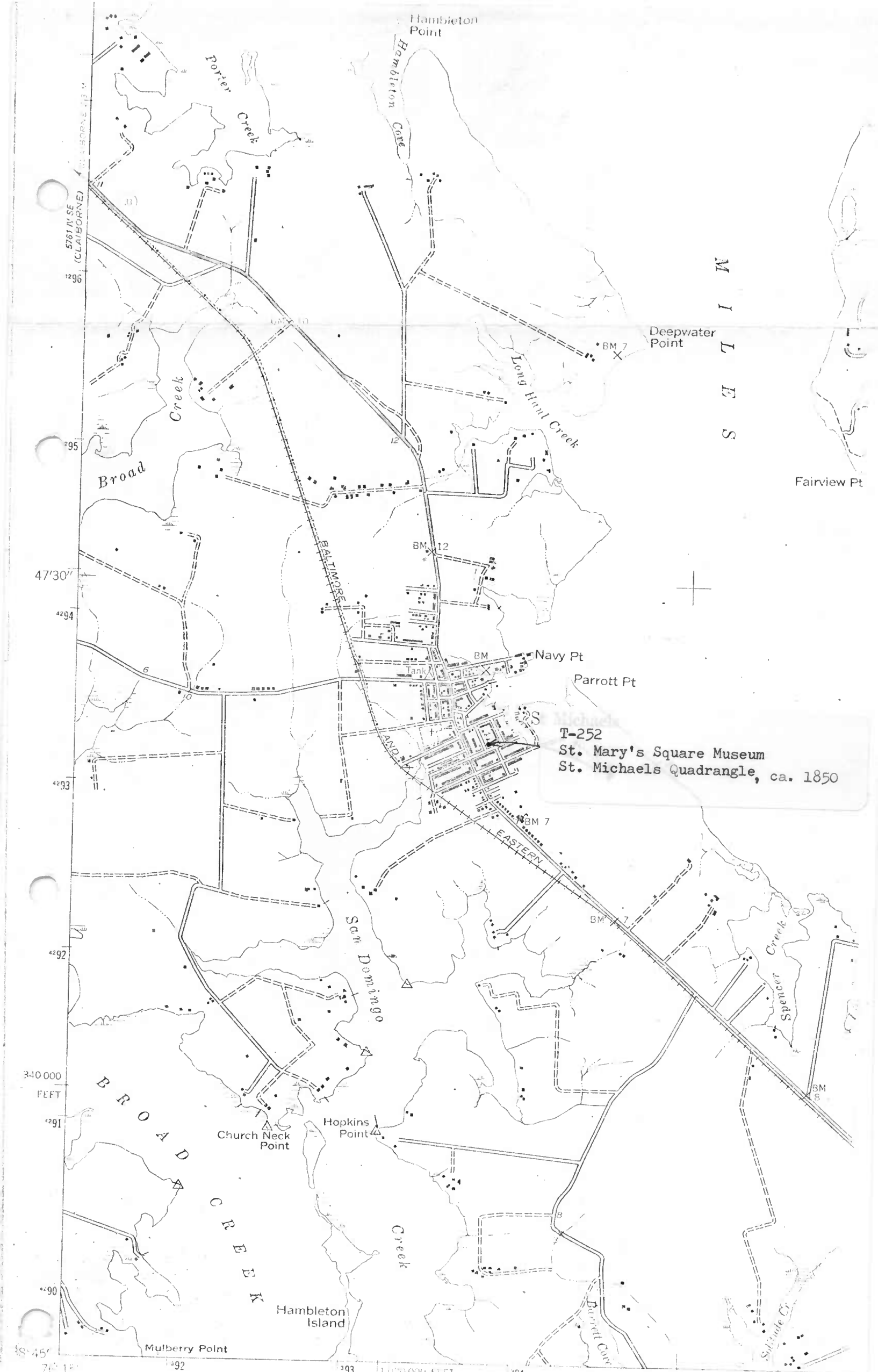
ATLANTIC RAILWAY

BACK CREEK

MAP  
OF  
**ST. MICHAELS**  
TALBOT CO. MARYLAND  
SCALE  
1" = 1 MILE  
JAN. 1, 1925. THOMAS F. AND







T-252  
St. Mary's Square Museum  
St. Michaels Quadrangle, ca. 1850



ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM T-252  
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland  
West Elevation  
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM

T-252

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

West Elevation

5/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust





ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM

T-252

West Elevation

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

5/85, Paul Touart, PHotogrpaher

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM      T-252  
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland  
Northwest Elevation  
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM      T-252  
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland  
Northwest Elevation  
5/85, Paul Touart, Photogrpahe  
HEG/MD. Historical Trust



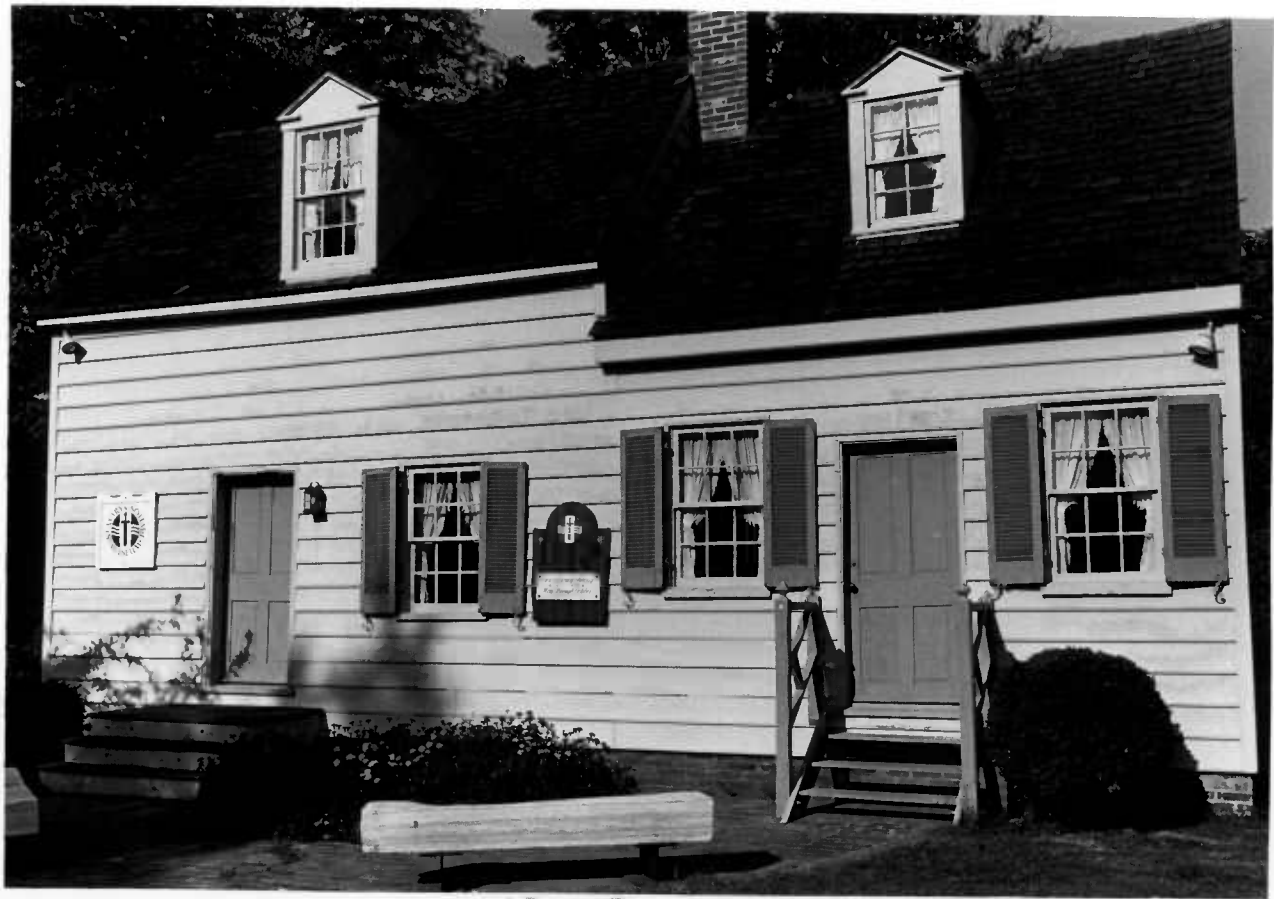
ST. MARY'S SQUARE MUSEUM      T-252  
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland  
"Tee To Tum" Building  
5/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
NEG/MD. Historical Trust





T-252

St. Mary's Square Museum  
St. Michael's



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